

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CLOSE UP FOUNDATION**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a very special event that is taking place, the 25th Anniversary of the Close Up Foundation.

As many of you know, the Close Up Foundation is the largest civic education organization in the country. It has not always been that way, when Close Up started 25 years ago their first program included 25 participants from 14 States. Today, Close Up brings approximately 25,000 participants annually to Washington, DC, on their various programs. They have participants from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Island territories.

These achievements are of themselves enough to make an organization and those who have supported it very proud; however, it does not stop there. Close Up has remained true to its mission over these 25 years. Their focus has been on efforts to be all inclusive and reach students who are underserved, either because of their economic, cultural, or geographic isolation. I am personally familiar with the difference Close Up has made to those who are geographically isolated.

Since 1979, more than 9,200 Alaska students and educators have participated in Close Up's programs. In 1987, Close Up began an effort to focus on including Alaska Native students in the Washington, D.C. High School Program. Since that time, approximately 685 Alaska Native students have taken part in the Close Up program. These students, from every corner of Alaska including our most remote villages, come to Washington and mix with their peers both from within Alaska and throughout the United States. While they are here, they are able to contribute to as well as learn from the diverse population of Close Up's student participants. By including Alaska Native students, young people, who rarely, if ever, have been outside of their villages, get the opportunity to expand their civic literacy as well as learn about the rest of the country and its citizens. We, in Alaska, are very proud of the input all of our Alaskan students bring to their peers from the rest of the country.

The contribution made by Alaska's students and educators takes many shapes, including returning to Alaska to become involved in and to organize Close Up local programs. These local programs provide civic education opportunities for all members of the community not just those students who were lucky enough to get to Washington, DC, to benefit from the Close Up experience. In this way, the Close Up message of informed, responsible citizenship is multiplied many times over to the great benefit of my State and the country.

In this time of distrust and cynicism, Close Up's program works to break down suspicion and to show high school students that government is relevant to their lives and important to them as citizens. With the recent disturbing results of a study of peoples' public opinion of Congress and the Government, we, as elected officials, should make it our goal to raise student interest in government because the future of this Nation depends on their civic involvement.

As we all know, Close Up's message of civic involvement is directed toward all students, not just the academic elite or the affluent. The federally funded Ellender Fellowship Program, along with Close Up generated fellowship funds, has made the Close Up civic learning opportunity a reality for students who would not otherwise be able to afford a trip to Washington, DC. In Alaska, students from families with limited means face an additional hurdle of very high travel costs. The Ellender fellowships help to level the playing field and provide civic educational opportunities to many students who might otherwise be overlooked or left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a longtime supporter of the Close Up Foundation, and I am delighted to be able to send my heartiest congratulations to them on the celebration of their 25th anniversary. The congratulations are for a job well done, and one I hope will continue for another 25 years.

AN EASY WAY TO REDUCE MAIL
FRAUD**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Mail Fraud Prevention Act, which will serve to increase the security of mail delivery for every individual who relies on the services of the U.S. Postal Service [USPS].

Current policies at the USPS allow an individual or household to change their address, and therefore forward their mail, to a new location simply by filling out a form and submitting it to the USPS. The forms can even be mailed to the postal service. This policy certainly makes service delivery more fluid for the estimated 42 million individuals or households who move and file mail forwarding orders each year. That convenience, however, has a price. That price may well be the security of personal and financial information delivered by the USPS to individuals and families across the Nation.

Because the USPS does not verify that the person submitting the forwarding order actually resides at the original address before processing the order and rerouting mail, criminals can fraudulently forward another individual or household's mail to a new address. The only information needed to submit a fraudulent forwarding order is the old address and a signature, which can be forged since the USPS does not check the identity of the individual at the time it accepts the completed form.

This policy gives criminals easy access to vital personal and financial information of every USPS customer, virtually every household in the Nation. Once bank account, credit card, or Social Security numbers fall into the hands of the thieves, it does not take long for them to drain finances and destroy credit histories that took a lifetime of fiscal planning and saving to build. The USPS estimates that 1,000 people annually are victimized by this form of postal fraud.

To the credit of the USPS, they do eventually attempt to verify mail forwarding orders; however, this action comes only after the mail

has been rerouted. The USPS mails letters to both addresses, new and old, telling residents that a forwarding order has been processed in their name. The flaw in this system, however, is that in the days or weeks it takes to send these verification notices, mail flows to the new address, sending sensitive and valuable information into the hands of the fraudulent filers.

The USPS has a responsibility to provide the highest level of security to its customers, and current policy regarding changes in address clearly ignores that responsibility. That is why I am introducing this legislation on the issue. This measure would require the USPS to check the identification of individuals submitting change of address forms at the time the form is submitted, before mail is rerouted. Only forms that are submitted by residents of the original address will be processed.

There is an exception for homebound individuals and others who would have a difficult time getting to a USPS branch to submit the form, although the bill requires the USPS to develop policies to increase the security of these individuals' mail delivery as well. By verifying an individual's identity before mail is actually forwarded, criminals have less opportunity to access personal or financial information. With so many personal and financial documents being sent through the mail in today's society, we must ensure that these documents are as safe as we can make them. This legislation would take a large bite out of postal fraud crime and go a long way in increasing the security of mailed documents and information.

TRIBUTE TO THE LEDYARD HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Ledyard High School girls softball team which has won four consecutive State championships, most recently on June 8, when it defeated Amity by a score of 4 to 3 in the finals.

Coached by Ellen Mahoney, a member of the school's faculty, Ledyard's program has compiled a remarkable record since it was started at the club level in the 1970's. The school has posted five State championships in the 1990's and had undefeated seasons in 1991 and 1993. This year saw yet another undefeated season, with an amazing record of 26 to 0, and a first place finish in the Hartford Courant's poll of girls' softball teams in Connecticut. Ledyard's record in the 1990's is a remarkable 165 victories and 10 losses. During the regular season this spring, the team compiled 16 shutouts in 20 games and allowed only 17 runs in the year's entire 26 game campaign.

Coach Mahoney says a dedicated coaching staff, fan support, and commitment from the kids contribute to the success of the Ledyard program.

The wonderful record of the girls softball team is one of the many elements on the academic and athletic fronts that makes Ledyard High School the excellent institution that it is.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1997

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3540) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Chairman, I support the Frank amendment for the elimination of international military and education training [IMET] funding for Indonesia. I believe this is a focused and unmistakable message to the Government of Indonesia that their strong arm tactics in regard to human rights, especially concerning the people of East Timor, will not be condoned by the United States. At the same time, this action will not adversely affect the strong economic recovery that has increasingly, helped to pull the people of Indonesia out of poverty over the last 30 years.

The State Department has clearly documented the torture and killing of civilians, especially nonviolent activists for self-determination in East Timor. Until good faith efforts to ensure the safety of the East Timorese are put in affect, talks on the political status of that country between Indonesia and Portugal, under the auspices of the United Nations, cannot go forward. This amendment will help to bring both Indonesia and East Timor in concert with the greater international community.

IMET brings foreign military officials to the United States for military training, which includes instruction in human rights standards. While this is certainly a laudable program, in this case it confers acceptance on the recent practices of the Indonesian Armed Forces. The last decade has seen increased improvement in relations between the United States and Indonesia, and the selected use of such targeted pressure will promote these trends and extend them to the issues of human rights and even workers rights. I support this trajectory and I support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO STAN HALL

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share with you and my colleagues the outstanding professional career and community service of a distinguished constituent who has resided in the city of Oakland for over 25 years, Mr. Stan Hall. On the occasion of his 50th birthday, I wish to join with the community to pay tribute to his dedication and commitment that has endeared him to those he had worked with and earned him well-deserved accolades for over two decades.

Stan Hall was born in Richmond, CA, to William and Hazel Hall. He is the seventh of eight children. Stan attended local schools in the

Richmond Unified School District, graduating from Harry Ells High School. He was a member of the student council, drama class, the school band, the school's State championship basketball team and the Forensic Society. Stan received the State Championship Award for Oratorical Interpretation.

He obtained his B.A. degree from San Francisco State University and his M.P.A. from Golden Gate University. He served as a faculty member of the Graduate School of Public Administration at Golden Gate University where he authored and published municipal management articles and presentations.

Throughout his life, Stan has been active in the community, serving as a member or in leadership positions with a number of professional and community organizations. Some of the organizations of which he has held or currently holds positions with, are the United Way of the Bay Area, Bay Area Urban League, Mt. Diablo Therapy Center, CHAD, the NAACP, Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California, the American Society of Public Administration, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, and the International City Management.

In recognition of his achievements and dedication to the community, Stan was twice named an Outstanding Young Man of America, named in Who's Who in Black America, and Who's Who in California. Among the numerous awards for achievement and community service of which Stan has been the recipient are the Meritorious Service Awards from the city of Richmond, CA, from the Seaside Masonic Lodge, and from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Stan is an active member of the Allen Temple Church of Oakland, CA, where he serves as a member of the public ministries committee, community development committee, the male chorus, and the sanctuary choir.

I join in celebration of Stan's 50th birthday and his more than 20 years of public service.

HONORING THE RED BOILING
SPRINGS FIRE AND RESCUE
SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Red Boiling Springs Fire and Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves

receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which move them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

COMMENDING JENNIFER TUTAK
ON HER ESSAY "THE BEST OF
THE BEST"

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues an excellent essay from an intelligent young student in my district named Jennifer Tutak. She writes that, looking back over the past 200 plus years of our country's history, we have made remarkable advances and are indeed the best of the best.

I would encourage my colleagues to take a moment and read her very optimistic and uplifting account of what we as Americans have accomplished since the beginning of our country. I certainly agree that the United States is the best country in the world, and Jennifer does well in reminding us of that.

THE BEST OF THE BEST

(By Jennifer Tutak)

Just over two hundred years ago, America was nothing more than a small band of colonies lacking unity and a strong government. Yet today we are leading the world in technological advances, medical breakthroughs, agricultural production, and global politics. A universal superpower, we have tremendous amounts of food, rich, vast lands, superb military forces, and a successful government. How did this happen? In two centuries, how did we surpass countries which have existed for thousands of years? The answer lies in the strong governmental and moral values of dedicated citizens which have pushed us to the top and continue to bring us to new heights and achievements.

It takes proficiency to make an administration strong, and our federal system of government provides just that. The ethical codes of each of the three branches have built up a stable governing body which meets the needs of its people and serves as a model for the rest of the world. The judicial branch protects the rights of all United States citizens, declaring them "innocent until proven guilty". Both the legislative and executive branches create laws to produce new benefits for the country, like safety regulations and trade agreements.

We hold public votes for our representatives in accord with the belief that the government directly serves us. They reflect our values and wishes and work to institute them. The United States strongly advocates world peace and belongs to a myriad of organizations and committees to promote goodwill, assistance, and trade between countries. We value our environment, the clean, crystal water, fresh air, and lush forests. The country recognizes the resources which we take for granted actually belong to our chil-